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UM CHEMIST PRESENTS PAPER,
COMMENTS ON RUSSIA

MISSOULA--

Although Russians are definitely opposed to ping-pong, they feel that their country and the United States are moving toward a common center in politics and lifestyles, Dr. William L. Waters, a University of Montana chemist, observed recently.

Dr. Waters, 32, an assistant professor, spent two weeks during August touring the U.S.S.R. and presenting a paper at the Fifth International Conference on Organo-Metallic Chemistry at Lomonosov State University in Moscow.

Dr. Waters' paper, "The Ozonation of Organo-Metallic Compounds," was one of 170 selected for oral presentation from 500 research papers submitted. He was the youngest representative to read a paper.

Dr. Paul W. Jennings, a chemistry professor from Montana State University, also presented a paper at the conference.

Dr. Waters said his Russian colleagues felt the U.S. dealt the U.S.S.R. "a slap in the face" by recognizing Red China after Russia spent a fortune trying to gain the Chinese as allies.

"Russia just seems to be a giant paradox," Dr. Waters said. While, on one hand, the Russian people would frown at what the U.S. was doing as a nation, they would envy the technical conveniences and freedoms that U.S. citizens enjoy, he added.

"Everywhere, the people would say they 'love America, but hate Nixon,'" Dr. Waters said.

The people strongly believed that the duty of the country is to keep its natural resources including its people, within its boundaries and that the state is more important than the individual, he said.

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Russian scientists are free to do research but they must report their findings to the government, Dr. Waters said. He suspects, however, that the Russians are under "more stringent regulations than they care to admit."

Dr. Waters said he envied the Russians in many respects.

"They are poor, yet equal, and very proud of their country," he said. "They brag about their nation's accomplishments and lack of crime."

Even minor petty thefts are ^{rare} because maximum penalties are imposed for all crimes.

Dr. Waters, a native of Birmingham, Mich., received his bachelor's degree at Kenyon College in 1961 and his doctorate at the University of Hawaii in 1966. He has been a research chemist for Dole Pineapple in Hawaii, and has taught at the University of Hawaii, a National Science ^{at} Foundation Summer Institute in American Samoa, and at the University of California at Irvine.

He is married to Alma VandenHaak, formerly of Glendale, Calif. They have two girls, Laura, 8, and Melissa, 3.

Dr. Waters plans to apply for a 6-month exchange program to do research or teach in the U.S.S.R.

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